



BEACHES AND GLACIERS HIKING AND KAYAK ON VANCOUVER ISLAND



TOUR V7

Vancouver Island offers incredible variety of day hikes. Among the rewards awaiting hikers are ancient rainforests, wildflower meadows, blue alpine lakes, glaciers and cascading waterfalls. During this guided camping tour trails range from easy walks on the beach to full-day alpine treks. Another highlight is a kayak excursion to Vargas Island with a night of wilderness camping on the beach. You have the benefit of hiking with an expert who knows the terrain in all kinds of weather and trail conditions and has information on the local history, flora and fauna. Camping under giant cedars, the sound of the waves, a crackling camp fire – Life is good.

Demands: camping, moderate hikes with light day pack. The kayak trip is suitable for inexperienced paddlers and alternate transport to the island is possible.

Included:

- ✓ ferry passages as mentioned
- ✓ spacious tents (2 pers./ tent)
- ✓ welcome gift
- ✓ all meals from dinner day 1 to lunch day 7
- ✓ cooking- and eating utensils
- ✓ camping gear (except sleeping bag)
- ✓ hard-foam mattress
- ✓ 2 days with ocean kayak and guide
- ✓ admission to the National Park
- ✓ camping fees
- ✓ services of a guide who accompanies the group on all hikes.

Not included: personal equipment, light day pack, sleeping bag, gratuities, hotel in downtown Vancouver \$185.00, near the Vancouver airport \$115.00 / night.

Schedule 2017:

19.06. - 25.06.	14.08. - 20.08.
26.06. - 02.07.	21.08. - 27.08.
17.07. - 23.07.	11.09. - 17.09.
24.07. - 30.07.	

All departures are guaranteed



5 MODERATE DAY HIKES WITH LIGHT BACKPACK

WILD LANDSCAPES ALONG THE JUAN DE FUCA MARINE TRAIL

ASTONISHING ABUNDANCE AND VARIETY OF MARINE LIFE

DAY HIKES INTO THE FORBIDDEN PLATEAU

TOFINO AND PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK

KAYAK EXCURSION WITH OVERNIGHT CAMPING ON A REMOTE ISLAND

BUILDING BLOCK WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

EXPERIENCED AND ENTHUSIASTIC GUIDE

Length of tour: 7 days

Group size: maximum 12 persons

All departures are guaranteed

PRICE: CDN\$ 1525.00 including taxes

Single tent: CDN\$ 120.00 extra

Start Monday 8:00 am at downtown Vancouver hotel, or Monday 8:30 am at Vancouver Airport hotel, or Monday at 2:00 pm in downtown Victoria

BEACHES AND GLACIERS HIKING AND KAYAK ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

Tour V7

Day 1: VANCOUVER / JUAN DE FUCA MARINE TRAIL - This morning you meet your guide in a hotel in downtown Vancouver or in downtown Victoria as arranged. You board the mini bus for the drive to the ferry terminal and the 90 minute crossing to Vancouver Island. In Victoria a stroll by the lively and picturesque Inner Harbour in Victoria, lunch on own, and now it is off to your first campground under giant cedar trees by the beach. The 47 km (29 mi) shoreline park along the south western edge of Vancouver Island is designed as a wilderness hiking trail. It is an extension of the famous Westcoast Trail but not quite as remote and rugged. The isolated beaches can be accessed by several trailheads and make it possible to choose from easy, moderate or strenuous day hikes. After consulting the tides table the guide decides which part of the beach to hike: suggested for this afternoon is an excursion to hidden pools and waterfalls. Dinner by the campfire and hopefully a spectacular ocean sunset. Hiking time 3 to 4 hours.

Day 2: JUAN DE FUCA MARINE TRAIL - Botanical Beach has one of the most unique and richest tidal areas along Canada's west coast. There are tide pools with purple and orange starfish, urchins, sea anemones and cucumbers, shoreline trails with fantastic geological formations of shale and quartz. So many impressions, so many photo opportunities during today's outing of up to 20 km (12.5 mi). You find an astounding variety of marine wildlife in the tide pools, but also a good chance to see whales, sea lions, seals and eagles. Hiking time 4 to 7 hours.

Day 3: PARKSVILLE - Depending on the tide chart there are further parts of the beach and reef shelves to explore, always the views of the Olympia Mountains across Juan de Fuca Strait. Seals, whales, dolphins and sea otters can sometimes be observed hunting and playing close to shore. Late afternoon you cross to the eastern side of Vancouver Island. The campground (showers) features majestic old growth forest of Douglas firs and a wide sandy beach near the city of Parksville. Hiking time 2 to 4 hours.

Day 4: PARKSVILLE / STRATHCONA PARK - Some of the best wilderness hiking on Vancouver Island is among the glaciated peaks of the Central Island. Strathcona Park was created in 1911 for those who seek adventure in remote alpine surroundings. You can reach the "Forbidden Plateau" via several routes. A 15 km (9.3 mi) loop trail near Mt. Washington starts already at the 1100 m (3665 ft) level and offers panoramic views over southern British Columbia. Hiking time 5 hours.

Day 5: TOFINO / VARGAS ISLAND - For your next adventure you explore the quiet inlet waters and ancient coastal rainforest of Clayoquot Sound in 2-person ocean kayaks. No previous kayaking experience is necessary. Route planning is chosen with both the novice and advanced paddlers in mind and with 1 kayak guide for every 6 participants. Starting in Tofino early afternoon you make your way to the shores of Meares Island for a break to go on a short hike under the giant cedars while the guide introduces you to the natural and cultural history of the island. Then you paddle across an inlet and past a Native village and by late afternoon arrive at your overnight camp on Vargas Island. A zodiac delivers your equipment and camping gear and takes the kayak guide back to Tofino. Your tour guide stays with your group to set up the overnight camp on one of the beautiful wild beaches. (Instead of paddling you can take the zodiac to get to the island).

Day 6: TOFINO / UCLUELET - The kayak guide returns this morning to paddle with you a different route past Stubbs Island back to Tofino. Planned for the afternoon is a side trip to Pacific Rim National Park where you hike mysterious trails with boardwalks and stairs in a fairy tale forest of ferns, lichens, mosses and thousand year old trees. There is more: boutiques and small stores in the charming villages of Ucluelet and Tofino offer crafts and souvenirs made by local artists. You also can join optional whale and bear watching excursions and even surfing lessons. Campground in Ucluelet (showers). Hiking time 1.5 to 4 hours.

Day 7: VANCOUVER - On the return trip you pass through Cathedral Grove with some over 800 year old cedars and Douglas fir trees, one of them is 9 meters (30 ft) in circumference. You walk on a network of short rainforest wilderness trails which weave amongst moss and fern blanketed fallen trees. Now via the coastal highway to VICTORIA and VANCOUVER. Arrival at the Vancouver airport hotel late afternoon.